

June 23d.

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Eighteen members present.

The following were presented for publication:

Additions to a Catalogue of Stars which have changed their colors.

By Jacob Ennis.

Descriptive enumeration of a collection of Fishes from the western coast of Central America. By Theodore Gill.

Enumeration of the Fish described and figured by Parra, scientifically named by Felipe Poey. Translated and edited by J. C. Brevoort.

Descriptions des Poissons nouvelles ou peu connues. Par M. Felipe Poey.

June 30th.

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Twelve members present.

The Committee on Proceedings presented the published No. for April and May, 1863.

On report of the respective committees, the following papers were ordered to be published in the Proceedings :

Descriptions of four new species of SPERMOPHILUS, in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution.

BY ROBERT KENNICOTT.

SPERMOPHILUS MOLLIS.

Length about 6.50 inches, vertebræ of tail 1.70 inches; tail to end of hairs 2.60 inches. Form rather stout, with the head small and the muzzle short and compressed. Ears rudimentary, the auricle only about one-twentieth of an inch high, and scarcely distinguishable in dried specimens. Feet rather large, with the claws very weak, much compressed and considerably curved. Tail much flattened, the central hairs above and below short and closely appressed, the outer ones longer and distended laterally. The hair clothing the body is remarkably fine and soft. The upper parts are finely variegated silvery-gray, light yellowish-brown, and black; these colors intimately and uniformly mixed throughout, without any indication of spots whatever. Under parts silvery-gray, with a slight wash of dirty creamy yellow. Tail above yellowish-brown, slightly mixed with black, with a distinct and prominent border and tip of white; beneath reddish-brown within the white border.

Though very different in coloration, this species is nearly related to *S. townsendi* and the Asiatic *S. guttatus*.

Camp Floyd and Rocky Mountains, Utah, C. Drexler and C. S. McCarthy.

SPERMOPHILUS OBSOLETUS.

Length of head and body about 6 inches; vertebræ of tail one-third as long; tail with hairs usually less than one-half as long. Form that of *Sp. pilosoma*, except that the head is much narrower, the nose longer and less pointed, and the tail shorter. Ears very small; auricle scarcely one-tenth of an inch in height. Upper parts dull sandy-gray, slightly grizzled with white and with indications posteriorly of indistinct light spots, the black posterior borders of which form prominent transverse black spots; the light spots more distinct 1863.]

and prominent in the young, the black borders most so in the adult. No indication of a longitudinal arrangement into lines of the spots. Crown nearly of the ground-color of the back; stripe under the eye tinged with reddish-brown, and the edges of ears and top of nose light reddish-brown in strong contrast with the other parts. Under parts generally dirty whitish, sometimes tinged with light sandy-brown. Tail above near its base, the color of the back, largely mixed with black posteriorly, and bordered and tipped with whitish; no distinct subterminal bar of black. The superior and lateral hairs with a single annulation of black. The under surface light reddish-brown, bordered and tipped by whitish, and with an indistinct subterminal border of black, mostly concealed by the overlaying unannulated hairs of the under side of the tail.

Closely related to *S. spilosoma* of which it is a northern representative. Is, however, readily distinguishable by the different coloration and much narrower skull.

Nabraska, Dr. Suckley, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Hayden.

SPERMOPHILUS ELEGANS.

Length of head and body about 7 inches; tail with hairs less than three-sevenths as long. Body moderately slender, but stouter than in *S. richardsonii*; head narrower and more tapering, though less so than in *S. 13-lineatus*. Ears rounded, distinct, a quarter of an inch in height. Feet moderately large, with the claws elongated, slender and curved. Tail about one-fourth shorter than in *S. richardsonii*, and twice as wide, much flattened; the central hairs above and below closely appressed, those on the sides widely distended. Color above pale dusky-gray, with a slight brownish wash and indistinct dark-brown mottlings along the middle of the back, without distinct spots. Under parts grayish-white, tinged with pale yellowish-brown or pale brownish cream-color, this deepest along the middle of the belly on the buttocks and outside of thighs, and arms; the chin, throat and inside of thighs and arms nearly pure white. Tail above of the color of the back, but more tinged with yellowish-brown, and with a subterminal narrow border, and broad bar of black widely edged and tipped with whitish; beneath clear yellowish-brown,—the central hairs without dark annulations,—with an indistinct subterminal border and indistinct bar of black, broadly edged by whitish.

This species is most nearly related to *S. richardsonii*.

Fort Bridger, Utah, C. Drexler.

SPERMOPHILUS ARMATUS.

Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 inches, vertebræ of tail a little over 2 inches; tail with hairs about two-fifths the length of head and body. Form stout, as much so as in *S. franklinii*; head broad, ears large and distinct as in *S. franklinii*, the auricle one-third of an inch in height. Feet rather large, fore claws considerably arched and very strong. Tail short, but full, as bushy as in *S. franklinii*, though with shorter hairs. Hair of the back dense and soft. Color above, including crown, finely-mixed dark-gray and black, with a slight wash of dark-brown along the middle of the back; the colors uniformly and intimately mixed, and without any tendency to form spots or lines. Ears, shoulders, outside of thighs, and the buttocks ochry-brown, in strong contrast with the general color. Tail both above and below mixed gray and black,—all the hairs beings annulated,—with a subterminal border and tip of black edged externally with gray.

In its heavy body, strong claws, and rather bushy tail, this somewhat resembles *S. franklinii*. The size, coloration, etc., at once distinguish it, however, from that species.

Fort Bridger, Utah, C. Drexler.

[June,